

# MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE (1500-1900 block)

## **Business Area #8: Massachusetts Avenue Corridor**

**Boundaries:** bordered by Kirkland Street, the Somerville Line, the B&M Railroad, Sherman Street, Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Cambridge Street

Major areas of Business, Retail, and Industrial concentration include: retail shops, restaurants and offices between 1540 to 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, businesses and offices on Garden, Sherman and Oxford Streets.



*1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue*

In 2005 there were a total of three **shoplifting** incidents in this district. None of these incidents were related or resulted in arrests. • Only two **commercial robberies** were reported on the 1700 block of Massachusetts Avenue, as compared to eight last year. One incident was at a Gulf gas station where the suspect pretended to buy something, but as the clerk opened the register, the suspect pulled out a small shotgun and demanded all the money in the register. • **Commercial burglaries** have increased 60% from 2004. The majority of these incidents were professional burglaries targeting safes. This pattern persisted throughout the city and in neighboring jurisdictions. More than half of these incidents took place during the second half of the year. The types of establishments broken into varied, and included a dance complex, café, convenience stores and several restaurants. • Only one significant pattern in **larceny from building** emerged in this district and involved larceny from health clubs. Bally's Total Fitness was struck multiple times throughout the year, as these thieves make a habit of breaking into lockers during lunch hours, hitting several lockers at once or returning every day of the week. Wallets were the common targets in these thefts. • **Larceny from person** decreased slightly from 2004 and there was no pattern to the thefts. Nearly half of the thefts were the result of the victim leaving their property unattended while either at a restaurant, public bench, or grocery store. • Of the 35 reported **fraud** incidents, seven were **flim-flams**. The first involved a victim receiving a letter stating that she had won a million dollars, but she had to pay \$11,000 first. Although it is difficult to determine forgery incident locations, nearly half of the reported incidents were credit card fraud, which could have taken place elsewhere in the state, even outside the country. Identity theft made up about a third of the reported frauds.

| CRIME                 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Larceny from Building | 29   | 34   | 42   | 46   | 52   |
| Larceny from Person   | 10   | 17   | 11   | 15   | 12   |
| Commercial Burglary   | 6    | 6    | 3    | 10   | 16   |
| Commercial Robbery    | 3    | 3    | 8    | 3    | 2    |
| Shoplifting           | 9    | 8    | 9    | 2    | 3    |
| Fraud/Flim            | 27   | 29   | 36   | 35   | 35   |
| Flam/Counterfeiting   |      |      |      |      |      |